

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01374 241012Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 IO-13 /082 W

-----030675 241015Z /12

R 240632Z AUG 77 ZDK CITE RUEHCS 0289

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1193

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 1374

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MAPUTO ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MI, TZ, MZ, PINT

SUBJECT: MALAWI RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND TANZANIA

REF: MAPUTO 0996

1. EMBOFF SPOKE AUG. 23 WITH VINCENT PHIRI, CHIEF OF POL DEPT IN MIN EXTAFF, WHO ACCOMPANIED MALAWI MINISTER CHIDZANJA NKOMA TO MOZAMBIQUE LAST WEEK. PHIRI STATED (A) THAT CHIDZANJA NKOMA'S SOLE PURPOSE IN MAPUTO WAS (AS REPORTED REFTTEL) TO DELIVER CONDOLENCE LETTER TO MACHEL CONCERNING MINE DISASTER, AND (B) THAT STATUS OF MALAWI-MOZAMBIQUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE NOT EXPRESSLY DISCUSSED. PHIRI PERSONALLY FEELS THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL RELATIONS IS A LONG WAY OFF AND THAT MALAWI HAS NO PLANS TO PUSH FOR RELATIONS SINCE MOZAMBIQUE HAS NOT HARASSED MALAWI'S VITAL RAIL AND ROAD LINKS THROUGH MOZAMBIQUE.

2. AS TO WHY MALAWI WENT TO SUCH LENGTHS AS TO SEND CABINET MINISTER TO MAPUTO, PHIRI EXPLAINED THAT MINE DISASTER OCCURRED
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PAGE 02 LILONG 01374 241012Z

NEAR MALAWI BORDER AND MALAWI CONSUMES MUCH OF THAT MINE'S PRODUCT. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN HOW MALAWI FOUND ITSELF CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE WHEN NEW REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER PORTUGAL (REQUIRING MALAWI TO PNG PORTUGESE AMBASSADOR) AND MACHEL TOOK OVER MOZAMBIQUE; MALAWI HAD BACKED WRONG HORSES IN BOTH INSTANCES AND HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EITHER. PHIRI ADDED, HOWEVER, OTHER NEARBY COUNTRIES (HE CITED

KENYA, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA) HAVE URGED MALAWI TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND, ALTHOUGH MALAWI GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE IMMEDIATE PLANS TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION NOW, IT IS IMPRESSED BY THOSE COUNTRIES' VIEWS ON THAT SUBJECT.

3. REGARDING MALAWI'S RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA, PHIRI STATED THAT THESE HAVE BEEN UP AND DOWN CONTINUOUSLY AND ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE FORMALIZED SOON BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF MALAWIAN EXILES IN TANZANIA. NONETHELESS, HE ADDED, THERE ARE TWO SIGNIFICANT FACTORS WHICH MAY IMPROVE RELATIONSHIP: A) TANZANIA APPEARS TO BE TIRED OF HAVING MALAWIAN EXPATRIATES RESIDEING THERE WHO ARE NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE ECONOMY AND ARE DRAWING SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT; AND B) TANZANIA SENT TWO COMMERCIAL DELEGATIONS TO MALAWI IN EARLY 1977 IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN GOODS WHICH OTHER NEARBY COUNTRIES CANNOT PROVIDE AND WHICH MALAWI WOULD BE WILLING TO SELL. PHIRI IS NOT AWARE IF THERE ARE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS RE INCREASED TRADE WITH TANZANIA SINCE LAST TRADE DELEGATION DEPARTED, BUT HE FEELS THAT THIS MAY BE IMPORTANT MEANS BY WHICH THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE DEALING MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER ON LONG-TERM BASIS.

4. COMMENT: PHIRI IS MORE OUT-GOING THAN OTHER GOM OFFICIALS AND WE BELIEVE HIS COMMENTS ARE ACCURATE PORTRAYAL OF GOM THINKING. IT APPEARS OBVIOUS TO US THAT MALAWI'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS ARE LIKELY TO BE GREATLY INFLUENCED BY SITUATION FOLLOWING ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE. STEVENSON

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